AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

WOULD JAIL ROCKEFELLERS

Chicago, July 17.—"If the next Congress represents the people of the United States, its first act will be to cite before it John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Mackenzie King, their tool. And if these men continue to defy the Nation they should be indicted for crime against the government and sent to jail."

Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the commission on industrial relations, made this declaration before several thousand men and women at a mass meeting called to protest the trial and conviction of John R. Lawson.

The demand that the Rockefellers and their press agent be jailed was made in connection with the refusal of these men to answer certain questions put to them while before the commission on industrial relations at Washington.

"The case of Lawson is the case of the mine operators and the mine workers," continued the speaker. "The Colorado fuel and iron company, which John D. Rockefeller rules through his son, and of which Lamont M. Bowers, chairman of the executive committee, was local representative on the ground, controls Colorado industrially and politically. Realizing they could not secure the conviction of the miners in any other way, they had a bill passed in the legislature creating a new judicial district, and the newly elected governor appointed to the new judicial position thus created a lawyer who had served in a subordinate capacity on the legal staff of the corporation. With this lawyer as judge, even then it was found necessary to pack the jury in order to obtain a conviction for murder.

"In the trial of Lawson the honor and integrity of the United States judiciary is absolutely on trial."

James Lord, president of the A. F. of L. mining department, and Mother Jones also spoke. The former declared that John D. Rockefeller directed the mine operators and he "should be tried and convicted of murder for the massacre of 13 children, women and children at Ludlow and the murder of the striking miners and in the ranks of the strikers who were slain by his gunmen."

MEXICAN WORKERS STRIKE.

Phoenix, Ariz., July 17.—State officials and the general public were startled by rumors of a revolt against the United States of America, started by Mexican with headquarters at Ray, this state.

Special dispatches were loaded into automobiles and rushed into the threatened locality, whose only communication with the outside world is a telegraph line owned by the Ray Consolidated Mining company. Failure to call for further reports from the district aroused the suspicions of practical-minded citizens, who discovered that 1,000 Mexicans employed by the company had organized a temporary union and gone on strike when a wage increase was refused. Governor Hunt was called upon, Governor Hunt and presented the Mexicans' side of the controversy. The Labor Journal of this city urged workers to keep away from Ray. The paper charges that the company has 25 or 30 men among the strikers and are attempting to persuade them to acts of violence, and it is reported "the armed guards can kill off a few Mexicans and thus drive the others back to work with no further thought of organization."

WAGES BOARDS CAN'T MEET.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, July 17.—The European war is responsible, Sir Alexander Peacock, minister of labor, gives for refusing to permit wages boards to meet and transact business, as in normal times. These boards consist of representatives of employers and employees, who adjust wage scales and working conditions. Workers on demobilization from the boards be permitted to convene, as has been done in New Zealand, New South Wales and other states that have removed the embargo. The minister of labor refuses to yield, but has given assurance that any individual case will be considered by him, and if workers can show a change in wage scale is justified he will permit the board in that industry or calling to consider same. Because of the government's negative attitude many betterments demanded by the workers will probably be postponed.

CONCILIATORS NAMED.

New York, July 17.—Mayor Mitchel has named the following as a board of conciliators to adjust matters between the International Ladies' Garment Workers' unions and their employers:

Felix Adler, Louis D. Brandeis, Henry C. Bruere, city chamberlain; George W. Kirchwey, former dean Columbia law school; Walter C. Noyes, former Judge United States circuit court of appeals, and Charles H. Bernheimer.

It is hoped that another protocol policy will be agreed to. The employers, last May, abrogated an agreement that had existed for five years.

GOMPERS COMPELS PEACE.

New York, July 17.—The New York Times gives editorial testimony to the ability of President Gompers in molding a public opinion in behalf of industrial peace.

In the American Federationist, July issue, President Gompers criticised the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' association for abrogating their agreement with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. The title of the editorial was "Contract Breaking Employers."

The New York Times of July 12 published "The Reply to Mr. Gompers." In the editorial the criticism is indulged in of the responsibilities of unions, but the significance of the following quotation is apparent:

"A few days ago Mr. Gompers' statement to the effect that the employers were responsible for the troubles in the needlework trades was widely published. He declared that the 'chief blame' rested upon them 'without question.' No doubt that is the case in his opinion. The effect of his statement upon public opinion was such that the employers have accepted the arbitration which they had refused."

MINERS WANT EIGHT HOURS

Scranton, Pa., July 17.—International President White and officers and members of the United Mine Workers' union, are conducting the most extensive organizing campaign in the history of the anthracite coal fields. This campaign will continue until next Labor day, when representatives of the three anthracite districts will meet to prepare demands of the miners for presentation to the operators.

The first of next April the present agreement with the anthracite miners are strengthening their lines for this event. While they are not discussing strike at this time, the history of the miners is that of every other organization—preparation to make peace possible. President White has taken personal charge of the campaign. He is addressing one and two meetings every day. Monster parades are a feature of these gatherings. It is estimated that there are now 50,000 unaffiliated miners in the anthracite region. On this figure the organizing campaign manager bases his hope for a hundred per cent organization. Concerning this the slogan, has been adopted as "after fifty thousand converts."

"Organize," is heard from every platform. In the audience those who would be helped must first try to help themselves, declared President White in his addresses. "Operators do not look upon the mine workers' organization as the representative of the unaffiliated miners, they only count the strength of the organization. Consequently it is the duty on the outside of the union is the best friend of the operators."

To obtain the full organization, President White makes this pledge, which is receiving hearty indorsement by miners who know what trade unionism has accomplished:

"Give your representatives 100 per cent organization and we will secure for the men of the anthracite region the eight hour day, other ideal conditions for which you have longed for in, these many years."

FARM WOMEN OVERWORKED.

Chicago, July 17.—State legislators are always careful how they make laws regulating hours for women and children may apply to farm life.

This was the address by the banker-farmer conference in this city Mrs. Nellie Kedzie Jones, of Auburndale, Mass., shattered views of agricultural workers have on the happy, care-free life in country. She said:

"You may be proud of your crops and of your herds of cattle, but it seems to me that the most important crop of all is the crop of boys and girls. This crop can be improved only by bettering the lot of the mother.

"Because of farm drudgery thousands of daughters leave the home every year and the city and town get the most congenial employment in the world. Many of this army find their dreams fulfilled, but the vast majority give up the struggle and are lost in the whirlpool from which there is no escape.

"Coffins are the most expensive commodity sold, yet many of our farmers are purchasing them for wives and children who have broken down under the strain of hard work, poor nourishment and lack of proper facilities."

LAND FOR CITY UNEMPLOYED.

Washington, July 17.—A committee appointed by Secretary of the Interior Lane and Secretary of Labor Wilson to work out a plan to relieve unemployment, under which the federal government would finance workers desiring to take up public land and complete program, with preliminary drafts of necessary legislation, is to be formed before congress meets in December, to be proposed in connection with a rural credits bill, which, operated in connection with the labor bureau, would enable workers in congested cities to take up agricultural land on government reclamation projects or public lands on easy payment plans. It is understood that the $10,000,000 head tax, collected from immigrants, might be used in financing the colonization feature of the rural credits plan. Secretary of Labor Wilson has repeatedly called attention to this vast reservoir of money, which could be loaned to workers on long time and permit them to own a home under the "back-to-the-land" movement. One of the rural credits plans will doubtless be based on this theory.

MANY DISPUTES ADJUSTED.

Montreal, Canada, July 17.—Organized workers in the ladies' garment industry have been beset with numerous disputes during the year. The union has settled these cases satisfactorily and has also conducted several organizing campaigns. A four days' strike against the Canada Cloak company resulted in an agreement whereby another factory, employing 200 workers, has been unionized.

MINERS "SHORT WEIGHTED."

Boulder, Colo., July 17.—Investigations by the state industrial commission again call attention to the practice of "short weighting" miners in this district. As one of the causes which led to the recent strike. At one mine the commission found that workers were cheated out of from 500 to nearly 1,000 pounds of coal during the first two weeks in June. This amounted to a clear wage reduction of $13 a month.

LARGE FUND FOR EDUCATION.

Springfield, Ill., July 17.—Governor Dunne has signed the University of Illinois bill carrying $3,000,000 heretofore appropriated by a single law to a single institution of higher learning in the United States, distributed it all to an even $5,000,000 for the two years. The bill was supported by organized labor.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Galesburg, Ill., July 17.—Coal dealers have signed an agreement which calls for 62½ cents an hour for drivers. The union is recognized and these workers say they now have a higher rate than any city in Illinois outside of Chicago.

SECURE AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Racine, Wis., July 17.—The trade union movement has secured an eight-hour day, starting next spring, for street workers and garbage plant workers, employed by the city.

ELECTRICIANS RAISE WAGES.

Greenwich, Conn., July 17.—Electrical workers have raised wages 24 cents a day without strike.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS' UNION RESUMES FULL A. F. OF L. AFFILIATION

Washington, July 17.—The Journeymen Tailors' union is in full affiliation with the bona fide trade union movement, and the label of that organization is again recognized by the American Federation of Labor.

Differences have existed between the Journeymen Tailors' union and the A. F. of L. because of the former's assumption of jurisdiction over other garment working trades, contrary to charter guarantees of the interested unions and the constitution of the A. F. of L., which provides for action by the convention in such cases.

As a result of decisions by the last A. F. of L. convention, the Journeymen Tailors' union held a referendum and decided to assume their original title and jurisdiction.

The following letter from President Gompers to General Secretary Sweeney indicates that this controversy is now happily ended:

"Washington, D. C., July 10, 1915.

"Mr. Thomas Sweeney, General Secretary Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, Corner E. Sixty-seventh street and Stony Island avenue, Chicago, Ill.

"Dear Sir and Brother:—Your favor of the 8th instant to Secretary Morrison was, by reason of the action of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, turned over to me for reply, and I cannot adequately express to you the great gratification which your official announcement gives that by the referendum vote of the membership of your union, the question of amalgamation, jurisdiction, title, etc., has been in full compliance with the decision and declaration of the Philadelphia convention of the American Federation of Labor, and the direction of the executive council thereon. Therefore, in conformity with the action of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, and in compliance with the instructions of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor to the undersigned, the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America is recognized in full affiliation with the A. F. of L., the indorsement of the union label of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, is hereby restored, the monies forwarded by the general secretary of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America to the general office of the American Federation of Labor in payment of per capita tax of said organization, and held in abeyance, is hereby directed to be returned to the secretary of the A. F. of L. and receipt for the same forwarded to you by Secretary Morrison.

"And now, permit me, not only in my own name but in the name of the executive council and the name of the great labor movement of America, to express the gratification which we must all feel that our former good relations have been re-established, and to express the hope that great benefit will come to the tailors, to all the workers in the garment trades, as well as to the workers of all trades and callings. Rest assured that every effort will be made by our movement to be helpful to your organization and your members.

"Permit me to say that under instructions of the Philadelphia convention, I shall soon take up with you the subject-matter of bringing about more harmonious relations and co-operation in the best interests of the trade union movement.

"With best wishes, and hoping to hear from you often, I am,

Fraternally yours,

"SAMUEL GOMPERS,

"President American Federation of Labor."

MOTHERS' PENSIONS URGED

San Francisco, July 17.—In an address to the Labor Council of this city on the value of mothers' pensions, Judge Henry Neil said:

"The mothers' pension system is not a charity any more than the public school is a charity. We expend money for free education because it is the economical and efficient thing to do. We know we must look to the future for our children grow up in ignorance. But thousands of children are being denied from obtaining an education because their fathers are dead or for some reason fail to provide. The pension system provides food, clothing, shelter and care by the child's own mother, without which the free public schools cannot do their work.

"Wherever the pension system has been tried its results satisfy all classes. Juvenile crime and defectives are decreased at once, because the pensioned mothers are enabled to remain at home and take care of their children. If children have to grow up with their own mother, juvenile crime decreases. Children raised in poverty distrust the police and courts, fill our penitentiaries, hospitals and asylums, because they did not get a fair start. The spending of ten million dollars this year for mothers' pensions will save the taxpayers a hundred million dollars in the coming years. The cost of courts, prisons and asylums has been increasing by leaps and bounds."

WAGES OF CAR MEN RAISED.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., July 17.—A maximum increase of 2½ cents an hour for motormen and conductors employed by the Wilkes-Barre Railway company has been ordered by an arbitration board. A 20 per cent participation in the profits of the company is fixed rate based on the earnings of the road for the year 1914 is also made. The gross passenger revenue per hour is the basis on which the profit sharing plan is to be based. In 1914 it was $2.38, the 1914 revenue. The employes' representative on the board dissented from the decision which was signed by the company's representative and State Labor Commissioner Jackson. One of the workers' objections is the failure of one-year men to secure an increase.

CAR MEN RATIFY AGREEMENT.

Springfield, Mass., July 17.—Street car men's unions of this city and Worcester have ratified the agreement entered into between their representatives and employers. The agreement dates back from May 31, when the "Worcester plan" was put into operation. Springfield receives a nine-hour day, instead of ten hours, and the Worcester rates are increased 2 cents an hour in the miscellaneous departments, which include the city stockholdermen, messengers and other employes exclusive of motormen and conductors, are increased from 5 to 37½ cents per day.

ZINC TRUST CUTS HUGE MELON

Newark, N. J., July 17.—At a special meeting of the stockholders of the New Jersey Zinc company the proposal of the board of directors to increase the capital stock from $10,000,000 to $25,000,000 was approved. It is stated that the $25,000,000 new capital will be distributed to the stockholders in the form of a 250 per cent stock dividend. Thus far this year the directors have ordered disbursed $40 in extra dividends, $10 of which was paid in January last and $30 was paid on July 15.

ACTIVE IN KOKOMO.

Kokomo, Ind., July 17.—The trade union movement has recorded several advances in this city recently. Laborers were successful in their strike for higher wages and the carpenters secured rates 2½ cents an hour as the result of a strike. The Typographical union has increased its membership and several unions have been organized.

SIGN CLERKS' AGREEMENT.

Steubenville, O., July 17.—Retail clerks association of having their new agreement signed by business men in this city. Closing hours are regulated and all employes eligible to membership shall become members of the union within thirty days from the commencement of employment. Where disputes arise, arbitration is agreed to.

OBJECT TO "TASK" SYSTEM.

Philadelphia, July 17.—Workers employed on outside ship construction at the New York Shipbuilding company's plant here object to the piece work system which nets them from $6 to $10 a week. They demand the eight-hour day and 24 cents an hour.

STATE TEXT BOOKS.

Sacramento, Cal., July 17.—State officials say California has saved $555,000 in one year by printing its own school text books, which is one-half the cost charged by eastern manufacturers.

INJUNCTION RULE IS KINGLY

Zion City, Ill., July 17.—Secretary-Treasurer Olander of the allied federation of labor addressed a public meeting in the interest of lace makers who have been locked out and enjoined by court orders from calling the employes on. Marshall Field's lace factory "for the purpose of inducing them to leave their employment."

Secretary Olander said these injunction judges substitute a form of personal government for government by law. He showed that law courts have recently held that peaceful picketing during a strike to be lawful, but that regardless of such rulings the equity courts forbid such picketing and thus virtually set aside the law. The right to combine with others in the exercise of lawful personal rights, and to induce others to do likewise, is upheld in the law courts, but is denied in the equity courts. In instances by the equity courts. The right of trial by jury provided by the constitutions of both the Nation and the state is never denied in court of law, but the right of trial by jury is seldom, if ever, recognized by judges sitting in equity and assuming the right to themselves to act in the triple capacity of prosecutor, judge and jury. The injunction process as used against workers in this country is based upon the old Roman theory that all persons are slaves, excepting those accorded him by the government. This is in direct opposition to the Anglo-Saxon theory that American law is based, that the government may exercise only such rights as are specifically granted to it.

The speaker also pointed out that the Sherman anti-trust law forbidding the injunction issued against striking lace makers, are held by the United States supreme court to be unconstitutional right, because these acts are specifically permitted by the Clayton act. The representatives of the national house of representatives and senate, by the passage of a law prohibiting the issuing of such injunctions by the federal courts, have specifically given their approval to the exercise of the rights which certain judges in state courts undertake to forbid.

CARPENTERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Chicago, July 17.—The carpenters' strike is settled, after a few months' idleness, affecting practically every industry in this city. The agreement runs for three years and provides for the union shop and a wage rate of 70 cents an hour. The old rate was 65 cents an hour.

During the strike independent contractors, employing several thousand carpenters, failed to start. Legal their efforts to defeat the workers the organized contractors attempted to have the courts declare the independents by closing down the lumber mills and brick yards.

4,330 EMPLOYES INJURED.

Lansing, Mich., July 17.—The automobile industry furnished the largest percent of the 4,330 Michigan employes injured in June. Miscellaneous manufacturing industries is second, and the copper and iron mining industries third and fourth, respectively. Of the grand total of accidents, twenty-three resulted fatally and seventy-seven caused permanent injuries. The amount of compensation paid by employers to injured workers during this month was $100,589.85.

RAILROADS VIOLATE LAW.

Des Moines, Iowa, July 17.—Officers of the Brotherhood of Trainmen have asked state officials to start legal proceedings against the following railroads: Minneapolis & St. Louis; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Iowa Central & Northwestern and the Great Western. It is charged that the first three do not employ a sufficient number of freight trains and that the latter road violates the headlight law passed in 1907.

NONUNION MINERS STRIKE.

Pineville, Ky., July 17.—Eight hundred miners employed by the Continental Coal company are on strike for a 10 per cent wage increase. These mines have operated on the non-union basis, but the miners, it is said, decided after walking out was to hold a mass meeting at the court house and invite operators to join the United Mine Workers' union.

BAKERS TO CONFER.

St. Louis, Mo., July 17.—The first of next month delegates from bakers' unions in this city will confer with delegates from Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas and will hold a conference in this city.

STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Boston, July 17.—Officers of the Massachusetts state federation of labor have issued the call for the thirteenth annual convention to be held at New Bedford, beginning Monday, September 20.

CANADIAN WORKERS TO CONFER.

Ottawa, Ontario, July 17.—Officers of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada have issued a call for the thirty-first annual convention, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, starting Monday, September 13.

Among the subjects scheduled for discussion are:

The conditions arising from unemployment in the industrial centers in Canada.

Dominion and provincial legislation affecting labor interests.

Enforcement of the misrepresentation and monetary clauses of the immigration laws all the year round.

Proposed amendments to Dominion Lands act, including (a) the reduction of the $200 deposit now exacted; (b) the making election day a public holiday.

Old age pensions and all the issues that are thereto connected.

The Trades and Labor Congress is formed by delegates representing unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. Its function is remedial legislation in the interests of Dominion of Canada workers.

ARBITRATION CASE CLOSED.

Chicago, July 17.—Both sides in the street car arbitration case have presented their evidence and a decision is expected soon.

The viewpoints of employers and employes were clearly shown in the closing arguments by International President Mahon of the street car men and President Busby of the Chicago surface lines.

The unionist said:

"Wages are not many constant tell in order to exist. If that were all, a man might as well die right quick. Life must mean more than the mere necessities. It is more than can be told in cold figures. We are not here, if feel, merely to propagate our species and then perish and pass away. Life must mean something more than this. Let there be in every home some inspiration for the better things of life."

President Busby said:

"We pay for our labor as we do for our materials—based on what others pay."

REGULATING CHILD LABOR.

Des Moines, Iowa, July 17.—The new child labor law, passed by the last legislature, and in effect, forbids department stores, business offices, telegraph companies, laundries and factories will have to eliminate labor by children under 14. Mines cannot employ boys under 16. Girls under 21 cannot be employed at all times. Boys between 14 and 16 may work at street trades but must have a badge from the superintendent of schools.

WOULD DIVIDE AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide, South Australia, July 17.—The sixth annual labor conference, consisting of federal and state public officials elected by the labor party, voted that Australia should be divided into a larger number of states. The sentiment prevailed that decentralization was essential to the control of the government by the people. One speaker said there should be 18 or 20 states in the Australian Parliament, instead of the six that now exist.

RESULTS OF ORGANIZATION.

Minneapolis, July 17.—Milk wagon drivers in this city illustrate the results that are possible through organization. Three years ago these workers were unorganized and were paid $45 a month. The rates today are $65 for the first six months, and after that $70 a month with commissions. In many cases wages now total $90 a month.

TO AMEND ELECTION LAWS.

El Paso, Tex., July 17.—A committee representing the railroad brotherhoods has issued an appeal to Texas citizens to support the proposed amendment to the state constitution which would permit railroad employes and others necessarily absent on election day to vote in precincts in the locality in which they happen to be.

PAVING CUTTERS ADVANCE.

Albion, N. Y., July 13.—Officers of the Paving Cutters' Union of the United States and Canada announce that a local has been formed at Lobrville, Ills., and that satisfactory agreements have been signed at Lyons, Colo., and St. Scholastique, Quebec.

COOLIE MANNED SHIPS SOLD

San Francisco, July 17.—The Dollar Steamship company has sold two of its vessels to parties in Vancouver, British Columbia, according to statements by Capt. Dollar. This ship owner has sold vessels before but the seamen's bill is blamed for the present disposal. Lately Capt. Dollar has been in the public press almost continuously with threats to change the registry of his ships from American to British because of the seamen's act, and Editor Scharrenberg of the Coast Seamen's Journal, made this comment:

"The one consoling thought in the whole affair is the knowledge of the fact that no American will lose his job because of this transfer. The same coolie crew and the same alien officers who manned the Dollar steamers during their temporary sojourn under the Stars and Stripes will remain on those ships under the Union Jack.

"It so happens there are no Americans on these American (?) ships. So the change in registry will be exceedingly simple. It will be a change of flag and nothing else. Yet Capt. Dollar will continue to pose as the public shining victim of that horrid, abominable seamen's act. He will continue to tell people Simon Pure Americans in California that he could no longer compete with foreign ships because of American conditions regarding the character and comforts of the crew, etc., imposed upon his ships by the ill-advised seamen.

"Yes, indeed, it is simply awful for American citizens to complain of such a loss. But our British friends deed not rejoice. Capt. Dollar will keep them on the jump with frequent threats to change his vessels to Chinese registry.

"Capt. Dollar will never be perfectly happy until he finds some nation which permits him to run his ships just as he pleases, without any kind of restrictions or regulations whatever."

JUDGES SHOULD BE WATCHED

Seattle, Wash., July 17.—"We will never have popular government in this country until we have the courts. If the courts make decisions which seem to the people unjust, they have a right to say so. The courts are open to criticism as well as other public bodies. We have a right to criticise anybody."

These sentiments were expressed by Prof. Allen Smith of the University of Washington, in a speech on "Labor and the Courts."

"Protest unfair court decisions," continued the speaker. "Watch the appointment of judges. Do not be afraid to speak your mind concerning the courts as you would speak it concerning any other political power or officer. Judges are not gods and courts are not always right. Let them feel the force of public opinion if you will do it through the legislatures entirely constitutional. Break any law we make! Our legislatures are no longer able to do it all for us. Speak your mind on court decisions and appointment of judges."

PROTECTING CHILD WORKERS.

Washington, July 17.—When a legislature has been induced to place a child labor law in the statute books the public often assumes that its duty is ended, says the children's bureau of the federal department of labor, in a report on the administration of the child labor laws of the various states in Connecticut. The bureau says the passage of a child labor law is only a beginning. It is the task of securing the needed enforcement that counts. Children from overwork and exploitation, and that the greatest task is to see that the law is obeyed. In Connecticut a child cannot go to work until he is 14 years old, and until 16 cannot work unless he has an employment certificate. Under the Connecticut law the state board of education dovetails the working of the compulsory education law with the child labor law. Agents of the state board inspect conditions in the various cities and towns. The bureau announces that these agents will be investigated for the purpose of discovering the system of protecting children at work.

ICE DRIVERS MAKE GAINS.

Indianapolis, July 17.—Practically every ice company in the city has accepted the terms of the scale of "Ice Wagon Drivers' and Helpers' union. Preference is promised union men. As a result of the fact that the ice business during the winter months, this feature of the agreement is important. Work on Independence day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be paid for at double time.

If work is not required on these days, the drivers will be paid their regular wages. Disputes which may arise and employers will consider claims of wrongful discharge. As work on Labor day will be required, double time rates will be allowed a day off satisfactory to employers and themselves.

RAIL FATALITIES DECREASE.

Washington, July 17.—A report by the interstate commerce commission for the first quarter ending March 31 shows that rail accidents have increased over the like period of last year. The number this year is 65 killed and 1,972 injured. While these figures tell a ghastly story of derailments caused by defective roadways, broken rails and broken bridges, the number of fatalities has been reduced by one-third over last year. The number of train accidents decreased 736 during the same period.

MINERS' LIVE IN TENTS.

Fort Smith, Ark., July 17.—Because of their activities in organizing their homes by the Pennsylvania Mining company and the Sterling Anthracite Coal company, 1,000 coal miners' union have shipped 100 tents to Jamestown, where these mines are located.

The miners were organized when the reduction of wages followed elections. They then applied for membership in the United Mine Workers' union.

LICENSE LABOR AGENCIES.

Joplin, Mo., July 17.—The city commission has ordered that hereafter an annual fee of $50 shall be charged employment agencies in this district of Joplin for at least one year can be licensed and an agency's rates cannot be more than 5 per cent of one month's wages.

WILL ENFORCE FIVE DAY LAW.

San Francisco, July 17.—Plasterers' union has announced that hereafter members shall not work more than five days a week. Saturdays and Sundays will be observed as holidays.

JOHN R. LAWSON GIVEN LIFE TERM

Miner Tells Judge Hillyer He Is Unfit For Bench.

NEW TRIAL PLEA IS OVERRULED

Convicted Worker Defies Coal Company Judge, Who Is Charged With Prejudice.

Trinidad, Colo., July 17.—Fresh from the employment of the coal operators of Colorado, including the Rockefellers, who have engineered these prosecutions, and counsel a coal company attorney, you were as prejudiced against me that my case in this court was a travesty on justice."

The above is a portion of the statement read by John R. Lawson when Judge Hillyer denied him a new trial and sentenced him to imprisonment for life on the charge of causing the death of John Nimmo; a mine guard, October 24, 1913.

At times Lawson's lips trembled. It was not a physical fear, but a choking emotion as the unionist recalled outrages inflicted on Colorado miners.

Lawson called Judge Hillyer's attention to the fact that the state supreme court is now reviewing claims of prejudicial conduct on the part of this ex-coal company attorney.

"You refused to permit the jury," he said, "to be excused from the regular jury box provided by law and you ordered an open venire. This method was particularly adapted to procure what none were surprised to discover, a hand picked jury of coal company partisans.

"Nothing was to be permitted to stand in the way of the state's case that even a jury so selected refused to convict me until a bailiff selected by the prosecuting attorney was on file in this court, tortured a juryman with manufactured reports of the dangerous illness of the juror's wife and as a final stroke warned the jury that the court's orders that the jury would have nothing further to eat until they rendered their verdict.

"Behind prison iron bars and prison walls, I assert my love for justice and my faith in its ultimate triumph; not a jaundice of theory, but of reality, extending to men, women and children, whose proper equality of opportunity it seeks to establish."

The sentence will be vigorously contested Lawson's attorneys are now preparing appeal papers.

SAYS PICKETING IS LEGAL.

San Diego, Cal., July 17.—Mayor Capps has vetoed an anti-picketing ordinance passed by the city council over a contrary ruling by the city solicitor.

In his veto message, the mayor says:

"I disapprove that portion of the above section which reads as follows: 'to loiter—or to picket, act as a picket, or congregate in any part of the city for the purpose of picketing, for the purpose of inducing or influencing any person.'

"I believe the enactment of the ordinance would be an invasion of the constitutional rights of citizens.

"The loitering or picketing referred to has been declared by almost all authorities to be lawful picketing and also 'peaceful picketing' and not unlawful, and it is the opinion of the city attorney that the supreme court of this state would render a like decision.

"Should the passage of this ordinance have offered to defray all expenses in connection with any court proceedings that the city has incurred by reason of its enforcement, but I believe it to be a very unwise enactment and in view of the clear obligations of this nature, against the advice of the city attorney, which it may later be forced to meet."

TYPHOID TAKES $5,000 YEARLY.

Washington, July 17.—Nearly 35,000 persons die from typhoid fever each year, and the percentage is increasing, according to a report issued by the federal public health service. In presenting these figures the health service points out that typhoid is preventable disease and declares that the United States "is a generation behind the times in regard to the reduction of the typhoid rate."

The health service says that American physicians have proved that money spent in typhoid prevention is well spent. Vaccination reduces typhoid danger 75 per cent, but sanitation also is important in the prevention of this disease, says the report.

ONE DOCK BUILDERS' UNION.

New York, July 17.—The American Federation of Labor has revoked the charter of the Municipal Dock Builders' union, No. 15,041, of this city. The only bona fide organization of dock builders in New York city recognized by the American Federation of Labor is the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' union, No. 1,456, affiliated to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

CAN'T COLLECT "DAMAGES"

Fort Smith, Ark., July 17.—The non-union Bache-Denman Coal company will not collect three times $427,320.77 from 200 members of the United Mine Workers' union, and this concern has lost faith in the Sherman anti-trust law as a means to destroy trades unionism.

Several months ago the company decided for the non-union shop. A strike resulted, followed by the suit for damages. International officers of the mine workers were included. Attorneys for the company asked Judge Youmans of the United States district court to dismiss the suit on the ground that the ownership, conduct and operation of a coal mine is not interstate commerce and does not, therefore, come under the jurisdiction of the Sherman anti-trust law.

The judge sustained this position and, threw the operators' pleas for three-fold damages out of court.

Because of the court's ruling the principles of the Clayton act were not passed upon by Judge Youmans.